

Weekly Citizen

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., MAR. 28, 1891.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

It is a well known fact that the constitution to appropriate millions of money at every session for the improvement of such navigable streams as the Colorado, in Pennsylvania, or the Ohio, in Ohio, why may it not appropriate a moderate sum to be expended in the improvement of the Colorado and the Rio Grande for the purpose of keeping them within their banks, and preventing such scenes of devastation and suffering as those witnessed at Yuma, within the last few days, or on the lower Rio Grande six years ago?

This is no new subject. We have been stirring it up periodically for the last eight years. About three years ago we succeeded in bringing the matter to the attention of congress, and a small sum was appropriated for the purpose of making a preliminary survey of the river what could or ought to be done to confine the Rio Grande to its proper channel. A party of government engineers came out to make the examination. They came early in May when camping out was pleasant in this latitude, and starting in at the Colorado line, they moved leisurely down to some point below El Paso, taking the whole summer to it, and having no real time. They measured the velocity of the current, analyzed the water, examined the sand, ramped the catfish, and made various scientific experiments of great value to the over-flowed districts, and then submitted an elaborate report in which the only information contained was that in the opinion of the commanding officer of the expedition, it would not be practicable to make the Rio Grande a navigable stream. So far as we have been able to learn, the real and only object of the expedition was to keep the river within its proper channel and prevent it from undermining and destroying the property of people living along its banks. It was not touched upon at all. And when we complained of this, we were told that congress had no power to appropriate money for the improvement of streams except in the interest of navigation.

It is the work that is done at government expense every year along the Mississippi river to prevent that stream from cutting away its banks, perishing in the interest of navigation? Are the levees on the lower Mississippi, upon which congress has expended untold millions, kept up in the interest of navigation? Inevitably, perhaps, the cause of navigation is benefited by these works, but everybody knows that the real purpose of them is to protect the adjacent lands.

But conceding that congress has no power under the constitution to do the work of the character referred to in the states, how does that effect the cause of the territories? The condition of a territory is very different from that of a state, congress has absolute control over its affairs the same as over those of the District of Columbia. It already pays considerable part of the current expenses of the territorial government, and does various other things that it might not do in the case of a state. The objection referred to has nothing in it. There is nothing in the constitution to prevent congress doing anything that may be necessary for the benefit of the territory or for the protection of the property of its people, in the line we have indicated or in any other. And it is to be hoped that the general government will, before long, see the necessity and the justice of undertaking such a work as we have referred to above.

HOME INDUSTRY.

One of the best illustrations that could be given of the folly of sending abroad for what can be had at home is furnished in the experience of the territorial school of mines at Socorro. The gentlemen in charge of that institution were not willing to put the work into the hands of a home architect, but sent abroad and engaged a high priced man somewhere in the east—one who had probably never been here, and one who evidently knew nothing about the conditions under which the work was to be prosecuted. As a consequence they have already had a useless expenditure of a considerable proportion of their appropriation. The foundation of their building has been laid in Portland cement, involving a useless outlay of five hundred dollars or more and not benefiting the building to the extent of a nickel. In a wet country, or for a building on wet land, such a foundation would be proper and necessary, but in this dry climate, and upon such a site as that chosen for the Socorro school, there was no more need of laying the foundation in cement than there would be of driving piles. The entire appropriation for the building was fourteen thousand dollars, and six thousand of this has already been used up and there is not a brick laid. There are scores of competent architects in New Mexico who could have been employed for less money than the board is probably paying to the eastern gentleman, men who are thoroughly acquainted with all the conditions, and who could have done the work just as well as it has been done and at a saving to the territory of more than enough to pay them for their services. Experience is a dear school, but it is said there is a certain class of people who cannot learn in any other.

A LIAR AND INCOHERENT.

Why God creates certain human beings is a puzzle and inscrutable to many finite minds. This reflection is drawn out by a recent three column article in the Los Angeles Express, written by George R. Broadbent, at one time a reporter in this city in the employ of the publisher of this paper, who at the time was publishing the Daily Journal. The article is a mass of exaggeration, and false in nearly every detail. But whether true or false, George R. Broadbent is the last man in the world to have written

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In accordance with law Governor Prince has re-appointed the territory for legislative purposes. There is little change. This county will have the same number of members of the council and house. Valencia is cut down one member of the house.

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